UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/686,447	10/10/2000	Carolyn Faour	0544MH-40015	5064

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2127	

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/686,447	FAOUR ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nilesh R Shah	2127

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 October 2000.*

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle,* 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 October 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) *7* .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gross et al (5,802,253) ('hereinafter Gross)

3. As per claim 1, Gross teaches a method for handling jobs within a computer system, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of work items, each work item representing a job to be performed, each work item including a category, state, and change history (col. 5 lines 13-61) (' Rule application limiting message kinds, i.e. FORMs of messages, which can be used to further limit the application of rules when the event occurrence specified is NEW, READ or FILED, is limited by the repertoire of forms (and folders) available in the messaging system.')

placing each work item into one of a plurality of queues and in turn, opening each work item in a queue, and executing one or more tasks on the item (col. 7 line 35 –col. 7 line 33, COL58 LINES 1-35) ('The event manager 24 interfaces with the rest of the system and

initializes the in-memory (non-persistent) event queue 20, locates and opens the disk based

persistent event queue 28 and synchronizes the non-persistent and persistent queues,

effectively merging the queues.')(' wherein said at least one event queue comprises a

persistent event queue for storing events which persist across invocations of said rule

processor and a non-persistent event queue for storing events that do not persist across

invocations of said rule processor.'); and

executing the tasks, if the job represented by a work item is complete archiving the work

item, and if the job is not yet complete, placing the work item into a queue ('Other persistent

events, i.e. FILED, READ, PERIODIC and BUTTONS, are similarly created and queued via

the event manager 24 and persistent event manager 26, to be pulled off the first-in first-out

persistent event queue 28 to be processed.')

4.   As per claim 2, Gross teaches a method wherein the step of executing a task includes the

step of modifying the work item. (col. 7 lines 16-65) (' The user interface 14, in

conjunction with a user interface management system 52 (UIMS) as known in the art,

monitors occurrences such as the keystrokes or buttons indicative of filing, reading or

otherwise manipulating a message, and invokes the event manager 24 and persistent

event manager 26 accordingly.')

5.   As per claim 3, Gross teaches a method wherein the step of executing a task includes the

step of sending an email to a person (col. 4 lines 6-24) ('The rule mechanism resources

13 implement actions on a mail message (i.e. cause something to be done) based upon an

evaluation of a condition, effected upon the occurrence of a particular event.')

6. As per claim 4, Gross teaches a method wherein the step of executing a task includes the

step of sending a fax to a person (col. 4 lines 6-24, col. 5 lines 23-59) ('The rule

mechanism resources 13 implement actions on a mail message (i.e. cause something to be

done) based upon an evaluation of a condition, effected upon the occurrence of a

particular event.'). ('Message forms, which are extensible and which can be specified for

further limitation of the invocation of corresponding rules include: memo, phone

message, reply and request form, among others. Default settings can be established for

limitations on events so that operands need not be specified.')

7. As per claim 5, Gross teaches a method wherein the step of executing a task includes the

step of moving the work item to a queue different form its present queue (col. 5 line 13-

col. 6 line 49) (' Rule application limiting message kinds, i.e. FORMs of messages,

which can be used to further limit the application of rules when the event occurrence

specified is NEW, READ or FILED, is limited by the repertoire of forms (and folders)

available in the messaging system.') ('An associated rule in the rule data base will be

found and will invoke action(s) upon the occurrence of the IAC event being processed

and satisfying specified conditional criteria.').

8. As per claim 6, Gross teaches a method wherein the step of executing one or more tasks comprises the steps of providing a plurality of composite actions, each composite action including a rule and at least one task to be executed as a result of evaluation of the rule, evaluating the rule for a composite action; and executing the task corresponding to the evaluation of the rule (col. 5 line 13- col. 6 line 49) (' Rule application limiting message kinds, i.e. FORMs of messages, which can be used to further limit the application of rules when the event occurrence specified is NEW, READ or FILED, is limited by the repertoire of forms (and folders) available in the messaging system.') ('An associated rule in the rule data base will be found and will invoke action(s) upon the occurrence of the IAC event being processed and satisfying specified conditional criteria.').

9. As per claim 7, Gross teaches a method wherein the work items each further include an identification of a party that created the work item (col. 4 lines 45-65, col. 5 lines 36-67) ('A message identifier or unique identifier (UID) is included in the NEW event to point to the message') (A UID identifies a message associated with the event')

10. As per claim 8, Gross teaches a method wherein the work items each further include a description of the job represented by the work item (col. 4 lines 45-65) ('Upon specification for rule invocation, the NEW event can be further limited by including operands which specify a particular kind or FORM of message for application of the corresponding rule.')

11. As per claim 9, Gross teaches a method wherein the work items each further include a

due date for the work item (col 5 lines 36-67) ('A TIMER event is defined in a data

structure as illustrated in FIG. 3e which includes a date and time when the event is to get

noticed. A UID identifies a message associated with the event and a rule pointer points

to a rule in the rule data base which contains an action or sequence of actions to be taken

on the message. Ticklers can be implemented in the present rule based messaging system

using TIMER events. For example, the system can be instructed to move a message to a

"today" folder on a specific date.')

12. As per claim 10, Gross teaches a method wherein the work items each further include a

current location for the work item (col. 7 line 35 –col. 7 line 33, COL58 LINES 1-35)

('The event manager 24 interfaces with the rest of the system and initializes the in-

memory (non-persistent) event queue 20, locates and opens the disk based persistent

event queue 28 and synchronizes the non-persistent and persistent queues, effectively

merging the queues.')(' wherein said at least one event queue comprises a persistent

event queue for storing events which persist across invocations of said rule processor and

a non-persistent event queue for storing events that do not persist across invocations of

said rule processor.');

13. As per claim 11, Gross teaches a system for handling jobs within a computer system,

comprising:

a plurality of queues (col. 5 line 13-61 col. 6 line 49) (' Rule application limiting message

kinds, i.e. FORMs of messages, which can be used to further limit the application of rules

when the event occurrence specified is NEW, READ or FILED, is limited by the repertoire

of forms (and folders) available in the messaging system.') ('An associated rule in the rule

data base will be found and will invoke action(s) upon the occurrence of the IAC event being

processed and satisfying specified conditional criteria.');

a plurality of work items, each representing a job to be performed, each work item having a

category, a state, and a history; a plurality of composite actions, each defining one or more

tasks to be executed with respect to a work item . (col. 5 line 13-61 col. 6 line 49) (' Rule

application limiting message kinds, i.e. FORMs of messages, which can be used to further

limit the application of rules when the event occurrence specified is NEW, READ or FILED,

is limited by the repertoire of forms (and folders) available in the messaging system.') ('An

associated rule in the rule data base will be found and will invoke action(s) upon the

occurrence of the IAC event being processed and satisfying specified conditional criteria.');

14. As per claim 12, Gross teaches a system wherein each composite action includes a rule to

be evaluated, and at least two sets of tasks to be performed depending on the outcome of

the evaluation (col. 5 line 13-61 col. 6 line 49) (' Rule application limiting message

kinds, i.e. FORMs of messages, which can be used to further limit the application of rules

when the event occurrence specified is NEW, READ or FILED, is limited by the

repertoire of forms (and folders) available in the messaging system.') ('An associated

rule in the rule data base will be found and will invoke action(s) upon the occurrence of

the IAC event being processed and satisfying specified conditional criteria.');.

15. As per claim 13 Gross teaches a system wherein the rule evaluates to a value of true or

false. (col. 2 lines 40-67) ('A rule mechanism is implemented having a When-If-Then"

event-driven, conditional, action-invoking paradigm or "triplet" which facilitates

definition of a repertoire of events considered to be significant events upon which to

trigger actions in a system such as an electronic mail messaging system.'). It is inherent

that when if statements returns values of true or false.

16. As per claim 14, Gross teaches a system further including a set of rules to be evaluated if

there is no rule to be evaluated. (col. 6 lines 14-67) ('An associated rule in the rule data

base will be found and will invoke action(s) upon the occurrence of the IAC event being

processed and satisfying specified conditional criteria.')

17. As per claim 15, Gross teaches a system wherein the work items each further include an

identification of a party that created the work item (col. 4 lines 45-65, col. 5 lines 36-67)

('A message identifier or unique identifier (UID) is included in the NEW event to point

to the message') (A UID identifies a message associated with the event')

18. As per claim 16, Gross teaches a system wherein the work items each further include a

description of the job represented by the work item (col. 4 lines 45-65) ('Upon

specification for rule invocation, the NEW event can be further limited by including

operands which specify a particular kind or FORM of message for application of the

corresponding rule.').

19. As per claim 17, Gross teaches a system wherein the work items each further include a

due date for the work item (col 5 lines 36-67) ('A TIMER event is defined in a data

structure as illustrated in FIG. 3e which includes a date and time when the event is to get

noticed. A UID identifies a message associated with the event and a rule pointer points

to a rule in the rule data base which contains an action or sequence of actions to be taken

on the message. Ticklers can be implemented in the present rule based messaging system

using TIMER events. For example, the system can be instructed to move a message to a

"today" folder on a specific date.')

20. As per claim 18, Gross teaches a system wherein the work items each further include a

current location for the work item (col. 7 line 35 –col. 7 line 33, COL58 LINES 1-35)

('The event manager 24 interfaces with the rest of the system and initializes the in-

memory (non-persistent) event queue, locates and opens the disk based persistent event

queue 28 and synchronizes the non-persistent and persistent queues, effectively merging

the queues.')(' wherein said at least one event queue comprises a persistent event queue

for storing events which persist across invocations of said rule processor and a non-

persistent event queue for storing events that do not persist across invocations of said rule

processor.')

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Nilesh R Shah whose telephone number is 703-305-8105.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, William Grant can be reached on 703-308-1108. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)305-0040.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

BANAN
PRIMARY EXA

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November 24, 2003